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The Parthenon, April 4, 2017

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THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 | VOL. 120 NO. 47 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

Two robberies on, around campus possibly connected



MU Alert: Armed robbery reported vicinity of 1500 block 4 1/2 St alley. 2 black male suspects, 1 with gray hood. Police investigating.



MU Alert: Strong-armed robbery (no weapon) reported in 1900 block of 5th Ave. Suspect is black male dressed in gray. Police investigating.

VIA MARSHALL UNIVERSITY TWITTER

Marshall issued MU Alerts for robberies Saturday and Sunday night over the weekend.

By **HEATHER BARKER**
THE PARTHENON

Over the course of two days, MU Alert sent out two messages informing subscribers of two separate robberies occurring on and around Marshall University's campus, which officials say could be connected.

The first alert was sent at 4:26 a.m. Saturday after three female students reported to Marshall University Police Department that a black male had robbed them in the 1900 block of Fifth Avenue, which is close to Twin Towers East and the back side of Freshman South Residence Hall. The victims reported that an iPhone and \$10 were stolen.

"Three females were approached by a black male, wearing gray clothing," Chief of MUPD Jim Terry said. "He came up behind them, told them to give him everything they had. He pointed a jacket pocket at them, but they didn't see a weapon."

The second alert came just after 1 a.m. Monday, informing receivers that a second robbery had occurred right off campus in the 1500 block of 4 1/2 Street Alley.

Two male students reported that less than \$100 was taken from them by two black males, one of which showed a gun in his waistband.

"One was wearing a gray hoodie, the other black male was wearing a gray jacket with the hood up, with a darker flat billed hat and black pants," Terry said. "He partially pulled a black hand gun from his waistband. So he didn't pull it out, he just showed it to them."

The two victims originally went to MUPD after the incident, but the location of the crime took place in Huntington Police Department's jurisdiction.

Both police departments are currently working together to see if the two cases are related and are reviewing video footage to identify the suspects.

"We're coordinating our investigation with Huntington Police Department's investigation because they appear to be related," Terry said.

Terry warns students to be aware of their surroundings and try to stay in well-lit areas and to report any criminal activity.

"Stay in high traffic areas, if possible. Students need to be aware of the emergency phones locations throughout the campus," he said. "If they see anything suspicious or see any suspicious behavior, either call us at 696-4357 or call 911."

According to Terry, the university is looking into additional resources and upgrading video surveillance in some locations on campus.

Heather Barker can be contacted at barker193@marshall.edu.

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Legislative session enters final week

By **KYLEE HURLEY**
THE PARTHENON

The West Virginia Legislature is quickly approaching the end of regular session, as both chambers will adjourn at midnight April 8.

The West Virginia House of Delegates and Senate have been meeting multiple times a day and also on Saturdays to discuss a number of bills before the end of session.

The budget has been a main topic of discussion as Gov. Jim Justice has released numerous statements of his proposals compared to the chamber's suggestions.

Justice shared a press release where he compared the House Finance Committee plan compared to his.

The press release describes Justice was against the proposal, which would "increase taxes on businesses to the tune of \$94 million."

In comparison to the House Finance Committee plan, Justice's plan would affect businesses by having them pay \$45 million in his tax plan, according to the release.

"Why come up with such a bizarre and incomplete proposal with only five days left in the session?" Justice asked in his release.

Not only has the budget been a frequent topic of discussion by the West Virginia Legislature, so has a variety of other topics.

Senate Bill 437 was voted on in the House of Delegates April 1, and passed after debate with a vote of 56-44, according to the West Virginia Legislature website.

Senate Bill 437 is summarized on the West Virginia Legislature website as "Discontinuing WV Greyhound Breeding Development Fund."

The Senate received the message on the same day marking SB 437 as completed legislation.

Senate Bill 222 also completed legislation on Monday.

According to the West Virginia Legislature website, SB 222 is summarized as "Relating to disqualification for unemployment benefits."

Another bill of large discussion since its passage from the Senate is SB 386, the Creating WV Medical Cannabis Act.

Since the passage of the bill in the Senate, SB 386 was introduced in the House and there was a motion made to skip the committee process and read the bill for the first time, according to the West Virginia Legislature website.

The West Virginia Legislature website shows the motion did pass, the bill was read the first time and was placed on the Special Calendar for Monday.

During the floor session Monday, Majority Leader Delegate Daryl Cowles said the bill would be placed at the foot of the calendar.

Delegate Cowles said this action was not to try and stop the bill, but to give time for both parties to caucus and consider the two amendments added to the bill over the weekend.

Cowles also said the delegates would be able to propose more amendments if lawmakers felt they were needed.

Kylee Hurley can be contacted at hurley40@marshall.edu.

Losses from Colorado mine spill may be less than initially feared

By **DAN ELLIOTT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic damage from a Colorado mine waste spill caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency might be far less than originally feared after attorneys drastically reduced some of the larger claims, The Associated Press has learned.

Farmers, business owners, residents and others initially said they suffered \$1.2 billion in lost income, property damage and personal injuries from the 2015 spill at the Gold King Mine, which tainted rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

But the total now appears to be about \$420 million. A single law firm that originally filed claims totaling \$900 million for a handful of New Mexico property owners told the AP it had lowered their claims to \$120 million.

It's still uncertain whether the White House and Congress — both now controlled by the GOP — are willing to pay for any of the economic losses, even though Republicans were among the most vocal in demanding the EPA make good on the harm.

Under former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, the EPA said it was prohibited by law from doing so.

An EPA-led contractor crew inadvertently released 3 million gallons (11.3 million liters) of wastewater tainted with heavy metals from the mine, polluting the Animas and San Juan rivers. The crew was doing exploratory excavation work at the mine entrance in advance of a possible cleanup.

page designed and edited by NANCY PEYTON | peyton22@marshall.edu

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Students eating at last year’s Strawberry Breakfast.

Alpha Xi Delta to hold 66th Annual Strawberry Breakfast

By **MATTHEW GROVES**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s chapter of Alpha Xi Delta is busy preparing for its annual Strawberry Breakfast. This year’s breakfast will be held April 20 at the Alpha Xi Delta house.

Alpha Xi Delta’s vice president of public relations, Riley Hogan, said the annual breakfast allows Alpha Xi Delta to make connections in many different ways, including more connections in Greek life.

“It’s a tradition. This is our 66th year in a row doing it,” Hogan said. “It promotes Greek life and Greek unity. Other Greek organizations buy out tickets from us and we buy tickets for their events too.”

Hogan said the Strawberry Breakfast is also a great opportunity for Alpha Xi Delta to have a lot of involvement throughout the community.

“We go around to local businesses and we ask for donations to buy things like the strawberries and the pancake mix,” Hogan said.

Alpha Xi Delta President Sasha Tackett said the Strawberry Breakfast is important for Greek life as a whole due to it’s long running history at Marshall.

“This is probably the longest event that Greek life has ever had, because we’re going on like our 66th year of it and I don’t think any other fraternities or sororities have a tradition like this,” Tackett said.

Hogan said the Strawberry Breakfast is one way that can bring the Marshall University family together.

“Our students and faculty from all over Marshall’s campus come to our house on that day to eat breakfast and get together and hang out,” Hogan said.

Aside from just bringing together the Marshall family, Tackett said the Strawberry Breakfast also brings together the Alpha Xi Delta sorority family.

“Mothers come throughout the week that we have it and they prepare strawberry butter, they make the pancakes, they do all the prep work and it’s just a time for them to spend with their daughters and the sorority family,” Tackett said.

Alpha Xi Delta’s Strawberry Breakfast tickets are now available and can be bought for \$5 from any member of Alpha Xi Delta. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits, chocolate-covered strawberries and homemade strawberry butter.

Matthew Groves can be contacted at groves56@live.marshall.edu.

Marshall Student Short Film Festival

By **ALEXIA LILLY**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall students have the opportunity to enjoy a night of film at the Marshall University Student Short Film Festival Thursday.

The Student Short Film Festival will begin at 7 p.m. in Smith Hall, room 154. The festival was organized by Walter Squire, director of the Film Studies program, with the help of Ian Nolte, an instructor in the English department.

“[Squire] and I were aware of many filmmakers working on campus, both in Film Studies courses as well as on their own independent productions, and we thought the university needed a night to collect and showcase these works,” Nolte said.

“So frequently student filmmakers are making things and throwing them up online,” Nolte said. “I think they rarely get to experience the festival atmosphere of sitting in a big

crowd and watching your work on the big screen. We wanted to have an event to celebrate, promote and encourage filmmaking at Marshall University.” The festival will showcase a little over two hours of content that will include funny, informative and moving films.

“I think there are a little over 25 individual films ranging from video experiments of less than a minute to narrative shorts fifteen minutes long,” Nolte said. “There are video essays, stop motion projects, documentaries, television commercials, sketches and promos.”

“One student wrote an entire season of a web series and decided to film the first two episodes. Those will be shown at the festival,” Squire said.

“I think people that come to the festival will all find something different that inspires them. Whether it is a piece of writing, an image, a performance or a joke. Something that makes them recognize

the talent and passion for film in our university community,” Nolte said.

The festival will also provide students with networking opportunities with filmmakers.

“I hope this is a chance for student filmmakers to meet each other and see each other’s work, to get ideas and inspiration and form new collaborations for future productions,” Nolte said.

Nolte said the festival is an outstanding opportunity for anyone with an interest in film and filmmaking to get out and get involved with the art form.

“Personally, I am always truly inspired by people who are working hard, putting in the hours, creating opportunities and making their thing. This will be an evening in celebration of that spirit,” Nolte said.

The student short film festival will last until 9 p.m. and light refreshments will be provided during the event. **Alexia Lilly can be contacted at lilly207@marshall.edu.**

Journalist to discuss Thurgood Marshall

By **SADIE HELMICK**
THE PARTHENON

The New York Times best-selling author Wil Haygood is coming to Marshall University’s Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall on Thursday to discuss his new book, “Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America” and his notable career as a

journalist and writer, The Amicus Curiae Lecture Series and the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy will welcome Haygood at 7 p.m.

Patricia Proctor, the director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy, has known Haygood since her days at the Charleston Gazette newspaper.

“At the time I met him he was a reporter for the Boston Globe,” Proctor said. “I have followed his very impressive career and it has been an exciting thing. I am really excited that he is coming here so our students can meet him.”

see LECTURE | pg. 5

Nuru Water Walks shines light on water crisis in developing world

By **SADIE HELMICK**
THE PARTHENON

The Multidimensional Poverty Index estimates 1.6 billion people are living in extreme poverty. Nuru International is an organization that has the ultimate goal of ending extreme poverty by creating an enabling environment where people have the ability to make meaningful choices to create change and a more hopeful future.

Nuru International encourages people to raise money and awareness within communities to fight against extreme poverty. Marshall University student Kati Holland and Marshall alumna Kristan Davis of Huntington want students to be a part of that fight for a more hopeful future.

The Nuru Water Walk shines a light on the hardship of the collection of water in the developing world.

“Women and children can spend hours a day walking miles to get water and sometimes it’s not even clean water,” Davis said. “We think this is a great way to walk in

solidarity and put ourselves in someone else’s shoes.”

This event allows students and the public to fill a five-gallon bucket with water and place it on their head, where it will remain for their one-mile journey.

For the past six years, Nuru International has sponsored this walk at Marshall. In the past, the Marshall community has raised \$2,000 for Nuru International with just one walk.

Kati Holland hopes for more diversity in the crowd this year.

“In years past, we usually see people about our age come, but we would really like to reach out to the younger and older community,” Holland said.

The walk will take place Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. with the suggested donation of \$10. T-shirts will be available for \$15. To register, people may go to the NURU HWV Facebook page.

Sadie Helmick can be contacted at helmick32@marshall.edu.

Murder Mystery Masquerade to fund after school programs

FOR THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s student-run public relations firm BeHerd Communications is partnering with the River Valley Child Development Services after school program at Guyandotte Elementary to raise money for the School Age Connections program.

BeHerd Communications will be hosting a fundraiser event for River Valley Child Development Services on Saturday, April 8 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of Marshall University’s Memorial Student Center. “The Murder Who Came to Dinner — a Murder Mystery Masquerade” event is a dinner and clue collecting event to solve the mystery of who the murderer is, presented by Murder and Merriment. Silent auction items will be available throughout the evening.

RVCDS is an organization that helps promote education, creative thought and independent thinking among children. The organization offers the School Age Connections Program for students at Guyandotte Elementary School at no cost to the families. The program hopes to

keep going, but needs help to do so.

“I think it is amazing what the School Age Connections program does for the students who attend,” said Sara Ryan, Be Herd Communications Media Relations Chair. “I have been to the school during the program and the kids are all having fun playing games with each other or learning new things or doing a craft. They are always smiling and laughing and I think it would be awful if this program doesn’t get to continue for another year.”

BeHerd Communications is a group of public relations students in a Marshall University capstone course. They are dedicated to raising funds for RVCDS to help student succeed.

Tickets are available now on EventBrite at beherd-murdermystery.eventbrite.com. Single admission tickets are \$45, couples’ admission are \$75, MU students can get a discounted ticket for \$25 and a table of eight can be bought for \$225. If a person cannot attend the event, there is the option to donate and become a “virtual player.”



HUNTER ELLIS | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Children participate in RVCDS’ School Age Connections program. The program helps children with social skills, as well as helping them pursue further various skills independently.

News In Brief

Blast on Russian subway kills 10

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bomb blast tore through a subway train in Russia’s second-largest city Monday, killing 10 people and injuring about 40 as President Vladimir Putin visited the city, authorities said. Hours later, police found an unexploded device in one of St. Petersburg’s busiest subway stations, sending a wave of anguish and fear through Putin’s hometown.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack Monday, but Russian trains and planes have been targeted repeatedly by Islamic militants, mostly connected to the insurgency in Chechnya and other Caucasus republics. The last confirmed attack was in October 2015 when Islamic State militants downed a Russian airliner heading from an Egyptian resort, killing all 224 people on board.

The Dec. 25 crash of a Russian plane carrying Red Army Choir members near the southern city of Sochi is widely believed to have been due to a bomb, but no official cause has been stated for the crash that killed 92 people.

The blast Monday hit the St. Petersburg train it traveled between stations about 2:20 p.m. The driver chose to continue on to the next station, Technological Institute, a decision praised by Russia’s Investigative Committee as aiding evacuation efforts and reducing the danger that passengers would die by trying to walk along the subway’s electrified tracks.

After a few hours of differing casualty tolls, Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova said 10 people died from the blast. City health authorities said 43 others were hospitalized.

Can you pass the US citizenship test? Try it out

QUESTIONS

1. What does the Constitution do?
2. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
3. What is an amendment?
4. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?
5. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
6. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
7. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
8. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the Constitution. Name one of the writers.
9. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
10. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

see ANSWERS | pg. 5

SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



PATRICK O'LEARY | THE PARTHENON

Graduate transfers Meagen Carter (left) and Alexis Montes (right) have found recent success for the Marshall track and field team. Montes transferred to Marshall from West Liberty University, where she finished seventh at the 2016 NCAA DII Indoor Track and Field Championships. A former runner at Seton Hall, Carter transferred to Marshall as the Seton Hall indoor school record holder in the 800 meter and mile runs. Carter also hold the school's outdoor record in the 1500 meter.

Graduate transfers find success

BY PATRICK O'LEARY
THE PARTHENON

For collegiate student-athletes, managing schoolwork and athletics is crucial for success both on the playing field and in the classroom. However, the workload for student-athletes who attend graduate school while playing a sport is only higher. Such is the case for Marshall University track and field athletes Meagen Carter and Alexis Montes, two graduate transfers who are using their final year of track and field eligibility as graduate students for the Herd.

What makes Carter and Montes even more special for Marshall's track and field team? They are not just succeeding; they're thriving.

"They present mature leadership for the team," head coach Jeff Small said. "They're great additions to the team."

Carter was a former standout at Division II Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. She broke school records in the indoor 800-meter run and mile, outdoor 1500-meter run and cross country 6K. She was injured at the end of indoor season her sophomore year and completely redshirted the outdoor portion of that season. She graduated in 2016 and had the extra year of eligibility in outdoor track and field.

Montes was also a standout at Division II West Liberty University in northern West Virginia. In 2016 she easily won the javelin throw in the Mountain East Conference's Championship meet. Montes then advanced to the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships where she placed seventh with a throw of 167 feet 7 inches (51.07 meters). She redshirted her

freshman year, giving her a full year of eligibility remaining following her graduation from West Liberty in 2016.

Both Carter and Montes did not know until late summer of 2016 they would be competing for Marshall. Carter decided on Marshall mid-July to pursue biomedical science, a program Marshall coaches told her about as a gateway to her eventual goal of medical school. Montes studies sport administration and did not sign with Marshall until three weeks before the 2016 fall semester began.

Fitting in was an obvious concern for both of the graduate-transfers. They were new to the team, yet were not freshmen.

"I remember expressing a concern because you're new, but you're older, so you have more experience," Carter said. "I know that a lot of teams have a certain dynamic, but the coaches assured me everything would be fine; and it really was. I've even adopted the nickname 'team mom' and I feel like I've been on the team for years."

Aside from picking up the role as the 'team mom,' Carter has made an immediate impact on the performance of the entire team. In her first official race for Marshall, she finished second on the team in the 3000-meter run.

"She's made a huge impact," assistant coach for distance/mid-distance runners Caleb Bowen said. "She's in that front pack leading by example.

It was hard for her not to be able to race in cross country and indoor track, but during that time she still led the team by example and through her work ethic."

Montes had a similar experience in her first moments at Marshall. Like Carter, she was nervous about joining the team, but fit in quickly.

"I was nervous because I obviously left my track family back home," Montes said. "Then here I am going to a new team with new teammates and a new atmosphere. But everyone was so accepting, it's like I was there from my freshman year. They made me feel really comfortable."

Montes made an immediate impact when the javelin throw began, an outdoor-only event. In her first competition for the Herd, she set the Marshall school record by over five feet. She won the javelin throw at the team's opening outdoor meet at High Point University with a mark of 164 feet 2 inches (50.03 meters), which was the 13th best throw in Division I following the first week-end of competition.

"It was so cool, it felt great," Montes said. "I owe it all to my teammates and coaches," Montes said. "I'm just putting on a different jersey and competing in different places. At the end of the day, I'm still competing. I still compete with the top people in the nation."

Both Carter and Montes expressed subtle differences between Division I and Division II track and

field. For example, neither had an indoor facility at their previous school like Marshall has with the Chris Cline Indoor Athletic Complex. Carter had many runs take place on treadmills and turf fields if available. Montes had to wear softball cleats to practice throwing the javelin because of the lack of a practice runway.

Aside from excelling in track and field, the graduate students excel in the classroom as well. Montes expressed how "it's all about time management." Both felt doubts and pressure.

"I can't tell you how many professors and advisors from my program warned me about how I wouldn't be able to balance the two," Carter said. "Every time I get an A on an exam I laugh about it. It's all about priorities and how you choose to spend your time. If you want the most out of something, it's how much effort you put into it. I don't feel at any disadvantage, and I honestly feel like playing a sport brings structure into my life."

Meagen Carter and Alexis Montes bring leadership and success to the Marshall University track and field team in meets, practice and in the classroom. Although the duo will only be able to bring one season of eligibility to the Herd, their impact has been huge to the track and field team.

"It's just a great atmosphere," Montes said. "I was able to get the perfect program for my graduate program in sport administration, and I was able to get the perfect track and field team."

Patrick O'Leary can be contacted at oleary7@marshall.edu.

page designed and edited by JAKE GRIFFITH | griffith142@marshall.edu

SIX FOR \$6
Six Originals for \$6

BBQ'S
2 FOR \$5

COLUMN

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

By HADI ALSAYED SULIMAN ATASSI

SYRIAN MARSHALL STUDENT

It hurts me when people have a bad idea about my country or think of it in a bad way. People now think if you are Syrian, they immediately take it to the point where you are a refugee and start building their own ideas in their brains.

I am here at Marshall paying my own tuition fees, but even if I am a refugee where is the shame in that? If I needed help while my home was destroyed and my home country is all vanishing? Since when do we differentiate between humans whether they are Syrian, American or Mexican? Whether they are black or white? Or whether they are Christians, Muslims or Jews?

We are all humans in the end, born the same way and breathing in the same air. At one point in life, we are all going to need help. Today, if you open your door for me when I need help, on another day you'll find my door open for you when you need help.

Syria is the most amazing place I have ever seen. Before the war, we used to have a lot of

American citizens visiting Syria for a tour to see its amazing ancient places and it is also the same reason why I came here to the United States. Because I know that it was the best place for me to get my education and, at the same time, I have always wanted to study in the United States and get to know more about it and wanted to explore all its amazing states and places that are full of nature and different lifestyles that interested me so much to come here.

I feel so happy when I talk to my friends about my country and introduce them to my culture and let them try our food. I am a Syrian student here at Marshall University. I'm so proud to be Syrian and will be proud to say that I am learning and will graduate from Marshall University in the United States because my success will represent the place that taught me.

This column was submitted as an assignment for an INTO Marshall writing class.

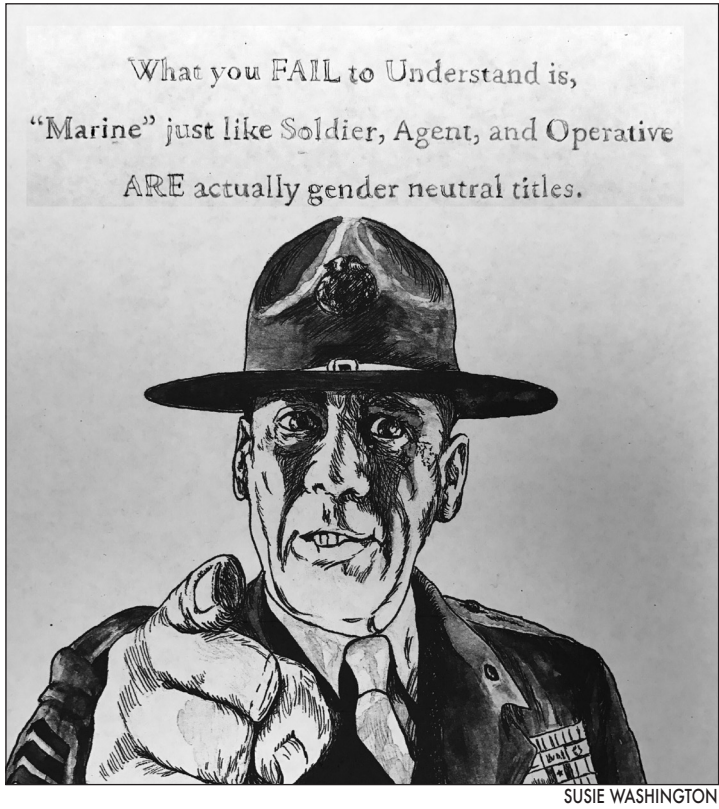
The instructor, Saba Gebrehiwot, can be contacted at gebrehiwot1@marshall.edu.

“Common Misconceptions” is a weekly column series that gives students, faculty and staff the opportunity to address common misconceptions and misunderstandings of and about their culture, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Columns may be submitted to parthenon@marshall.edu.

Submission does not guarantee publication.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



EDITORIAL

Mountain State education left in dust by local, federal lawmakers

After graduating high school, there are plenty of things young adults have to worry about. Picking a career path. Deciding if college is the right choice. Preparing to move to another city or state. One thing that should not have to weigh too heavily on their minds is the cost of education.

It's no mystery that tuition rates across the country have continually increased in recent years. However, a new report from the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy recently stated that higher education is far less obtainable in West Virginia than anywhere else in the country.

Tuition rates have reportedly doubled in the Mountain State since 2002 — an increase of around \$4,200 — and student debt has gone up 70 percent. In addition, the state has decreased higher education funding by \$130 million since 2008, according to WSAZ.

Many West Virginia students depend on state-funded programs such as PROMISE to attend college, but even that scholarship has not kept up with the tuition increases. PROMISE was originally created to cover 100 percent of tuition, but it now only covers 70 percent.

PROMISE and other programs have been on the chopping block every legislative session.



AP PHOTO | EVAN VUCCI

President Donald Trump listens during a March 28 meeting with the Fraternal Order of Police, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. The president has proposed a budget that would make cuts to a number of education programs and grants that benefit students in West Virginia and throughout the nation.

Education programs have also been cut at the federal level.

President Donald Trump proposed a budget that would make cuts to the Federal Pell Grant Program, the National Endowment for the Arts, grants for teachers and reduce Federal Work-Study.

When education is not valued by the president of the United States himself, there's no surprise that others in power would follow his example.

Counties such as Boone and Logan have seen extreme cuts of jobs in the school system. After school programs and the arts are being removed. Libraries are being shut down. Teachers in Kanawha County were required to draw numbers from a hat to see who would be laid off.

The state already has many areas where students are at a disadvantage before graduation. Increasing tuition and

cutting away at vital financial aid programs is not the answer to the problems that currently face West Virginia. Now more than ever the state needs more diversified education because of the decline of the coal industry.

Lawmakers are making students in the Mountain State fall behind, and if cuts continue there will be almost no way for students here to catch back up to those across the country.

STATE EDITORIAL

Time is right to pass medical marijuana law

THE REGISTER-HERALD

As the House of Delegates is spending the weekend reading and fixing the fine print of medical marijuana legislation, we can think of myriad reasons why our elected representatives should give their stamp of approval this week. But perhaps, once and for all, we can bury the notion that marijuana is an evil weed and a gateway drug that shares in the downfall of society.

It is none of that. Here's what it is: A plant that has certain medicinal properties that have proven to help people deal with chronic pain, overcome eating disorders, and experience fewer epileptic seizures.

Here is what it is not: A cure for cancer. Rather, it provides doctors another prescription option that – in the case of a cancer patient – alleviates the pain and nausea associated with chemotherapy.

Medical marijuana has many applications, but having a track record for attacking pain is powerfully persuasive in a state that leads the nation in the rate of opioid overdose deaths.

In a series of stories in The Register-Herald earlier this year, one West Virginia woman, Amanda Toothman, recalled how marijuana – not morphine, not Percocet, not Tramadol – provided her immediate relief from excruciating pain brought about by a double mastectomy.

“Once I became completely desperate and nothing else was helping, including

legal and pharmaceutical options, I felt like I had no other choice,” she told reporter Wendy Holdren.

Toothman, by breaking state law, was fortunate. Not so for others.

Francie Floyd, another West Virginian, has suffered epileptic seizures since early childhood. She is now 40.

A pill box sits on her dining room table. In it are a handful of meds for morning and another handful for night. She carries prescriptions for three anticonvulsants, Topamax, Keppra and Vimpat, which come with a host of side effects – loss of bone density, aphasia (loss of ability to understand or express speech), lack of energy, hair loss, dry mouth and loss of appetite.

And the recipe is forever changing as her body grows tolerant to the latest cocktail of anticonvulsants.

“Right now, I'm dealing with so many side effects from the meds I'm on and they aren't helping me.”

And yet, there is evidence that cannabidiol oil, an extract of the marijuana plant that is not psychoactive, can reduce the number and severity of seizures.

Floyd holds a college degree, she reads, and she knows all about Charlotte Figi, a five-year-old who had been experiencing 300 seizures a day – until she was treated with CBD oil. Then it was two or three seizures a day.

Charlotte is now a 9-year-old in her first

full year of school – the second grade.

Floyd wishes she had access to the medicine.

“I wouldn't be in this nightmare situation,” she told Holdren. “I'm sick of being overmedicated. I'm sick of having seizures. I'm sick of the list of things these medications do to you.”

Toothman and Floyd have their stories, but they are not alone. Just last year, 818 Mountaineers died of a drug overdose, and 703 of those deaths involved at least one opioid.

And as if to drive the point home that the state needs alternatives to current prescribing habits, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources plans to distribute more than 8,000 naloxone rescue kits this year.

Naloxone can save someone who has overdosed. It is, to be kind, a back-end fix for a culture of dependency.

Legalized medical marijuana, on the other hand, offers another option for doctors – and patients – thus lessening exposure and risk to opioids.

By all appearances, medical marijuana legislation is going to pass the House of Delegates. It has already passed the Senate by a commanding 28-6 vote. Gov. Jim Justice said he will sign the bill lickity-split.

For many – like Toothman and Floyd and the thousands of our neighbors – the prescription could not come soon enough.

THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Bill O'Reilly, ex-Fox chief, hit with more sexual assault allegations

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP TELEVISION WRITER

A Fox News contributor came forward to level more sexual-harassment allegations against deposed chief executive Roger Ailes on Monday, two days after it was revealed the network's most popular on-air personality, Bill O'Reilly, has settled multiple complaints about his own behavior with women.

O'Reilly was due to return to the air on Monday following a weekend report in The New York Times that he and his employer had paid five women \$13 million to settle allegations of sexual harassment or other inappropriate conduct by Fox's ratings king.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for another woman who says she was punished for rebuffing O'Reilly's advances called on New York City's Human Rights Commission to investigate O'Reilly's behavior.

The new lawsuit against Ailes was brought by Fox's Julie Roginsky and is notable because it accuses Fox's current management of trying to cover up for Ailes.

Roginsky said Ailes, who lost his job last summer following sexual-harassment complaints he has denied, suggested she have sex with "older, married, conservative men." She said Ailes would insist upon a kiss hello at their meetings, requiring her to bend over so he could look down her dress.

She was seeking a permanent role on Fox's show "The Five." But after an April 2015 meeting at which she turned down Ailes' advances, he wouldn't meet with her again, and she never got the regular role, she said.

Later, she said, she was pressured to join Team Roger, a group of people who publicly defended Ailes when the first harassment complaint made public against the Fox boss was brought by Gretchen Carlson last summer. Roginsky refused.

She said that even though Fox executives knew she had her own harassment allegations against Ailes, she was never encouraged to speak to the law firm hired by Fox News parent 21st Century Fox to investigate claims against him. And she said Fox never looked into her charges. Her lawyer would not say Monday why Roginsky



RICHARD DREW | AP PHOTO

Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel program "The O'Reilly Factor," poses for photos in New York. O'Reilly says in a statement posted to his website that he is "vulnerable to lawsuits" because of his high-profile job in response to a New York Times report, Saturday, April 1, 2017, detailing payouts made to settle accusations of sexual harassment and other inappropriate behavior. Fox News' parent company 21st Century Fox backed him in a statement.

never contacted the firm on her own.

Roginsky said that during a meeting in December, new Fox top executive Bill Shine told her he didn't believe the allegations against Ailes until recently. But the lawsuit alleges Shine and other top Fox executives should have known about Ailes' behavior much earlier.

"Shine and other senior executives kept Ailes' conduct secret and enabled it," said the lawsuit, filed in state court.

Fox News representatives did not immediately return messages for comment.

Roginsky said she believes Shine hasn't given her an opportunity for advancement in retaliation for her harassment complaint and her refusal to speak out against Carlson.

At a Los Angeles news conference Monday, lawyer Lisa Bloom detailed allegations against O'Reilly by Wendy Walsh, a regular guest on the prime-time show "The O'Reilly Factor."

Bloom said O'Reilly had told Walsh he would recommend her for a paid contributor role on the network. Walsh and O'Reilly had dinner in Los Angeles in 2013, but when Walsh refused his invitation to go to his hotel room, his attitude changed and she was soon dropped from the show, according to Walsh.

Bloom was seeking an investigation by the city Human Rights Commission. A spokesman for the commission said no claim had been filed. Claims have to address activity that happened within the city's five boroughs and must be filed within one year of an alleged infraction.

Walsh said she came forward because she was told by a Times reporter that many of the women who have accused O'Reilly of harassment are bound by gag orders. She said she is not bound by any such agreement, and the statute of limitations for suing has run out.

"Nobody can silence me because my voice is not for sale," Walsh said. "Nobody can buy my voice."

O'Reilly said over the weekend he is vulnerable to lawsuits from people who threaten to cause him bad publicity unless they get paid. He said he had "put to rest any controversies" to spare his children.

O'Reilly's ratings have gone up over the past year with the intense interest in politics. Independent studies show he generates more than \$100 million in advertising revenue per year for TV's top-rated cable news network. But at least one advertiser, car company Mercedes-Benz, said it was pulling its ads from the show because of the "disturbing" allegations.

Storms sweep through South; 5 killed

By **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**
and **JAY REEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Mississippi woman who desperately tried to direct rescuers to her sinking vehicle after it skidded into a rain-swollen creek was among five people killed in storms across the South.

Jacqueline Williams, 52, was running a newspaper delivery route when her car slid off a road into a creek in her hometown of Florence before dawn Monday, authorities said. She dialed 911 from the car as it went down, said Rankin County Coroner David Ruth.

Ruth said Williams was trying to relay her location to a dispatcher as the car settled into the swirling waters. "She was trying to tell the dispatcher where she was, and she could actually hear the sirens," Ruth said.

The two lost contact, and Ruth said a swift-water recovery team later found Williams' body in the creek outside the car.

Florence Police Chief Richard Thomas said the current where Williams died was fast and strong.

He said authorities got a call from a woman saying her car was being swept into the

water. Authorities immediately began looking but couldn't find her in time. Records from the county's 911 center show the first call came at 4:35 a.m., responders were dispatched within 17 seconds and arrived at 4:42 a.m.

"It was really quick," Thomas said.

Williams' body was eventually recovered, and authorities pulled her small vehicle out of the water about three hours later.

Florence is a town of about 4,000 people. The chief described Williams and her family as "really good people."

"Twenty-some-odd years ago, our two boys played baseball together," Thomas said.

In the tiny Mississippi Delta town of Glendora, the mayor's wife died Sunday when strong winds toppled a tree onto the couple's house. Mayor Johnny B. Thomas was briefly hospitalized with injuries after his wife Shirley was killed, said town clerk Aquarius Simmons.

"She was a nice lady. Very sweet. Everybody loved her," Simmons said of Shirley Thomas.

Two other people died earlier in Louisiana, and a man died Monday in South

Carolina after storms swept through the state.

Some schools in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama canceled or delayed the start of classes Monday so students wouldn't travel in heavy rain or on flooded streets.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards signed a statewide emergency declaration Monday before embarking on a trip to survey storm damage in two central and southern parishes.

Some of the heaviest rains fell in central Louisiana from Sunday into early Monday. C.S. Ross, a National Weather Service hydrologist in Shreveport, said nearly 8 inches of rain was reported in Grant Parish in the north central part of the state.

A tornado flipped a mobile home Sunday in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, killing a mother and her 3-year-old daughter, while on Monday a weather event authorities also believed to be a tornado flipped a mobile home in Union County, South Carolina, killing one person, said Kim Bailey, administrative assistant to Union County Sheriff David Taylor.

J.C. Matthews Jr., 65, was dead by the time emergency help arrived at his destroyed home in Whitmire, the county

coroner's office said Monday.

In Louisiana, the storm also brought hurricane-force winds, large hail and sparked flash flooding. Up to 6 inches of rain fell in some areas. Breaux Bridge is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Baton Rouge.

St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Maj. Ginny Higgins told The Associated Press that the tornado in Breaux Bridge touched down seconds after a warning was issued.

"It hit the trailer, flipped it and tore its side off," Higgins said.

Higgins said 38-year-old Francine Gotch and 3-year-old Nevaeh Alexander were pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses told KLFY-TV that the father was at the store when the storm hit and returned to find the bodies amid the splintered debris.

Relatives described those killed as a fun-loving pair who smiled frequently.

Nevaeh "was the sweetest little girl," said Sheryle Rubin, who's engaged to the girl's uncle. "She was only 3 years old but was the smartest girl in the world. She would've started school in August."

ANSWERS cont. from 2

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sets up the government, defines the government and protects basic rights of Americans | 7. To print money, to declare war, to create an army or to make treaties |
| 2. We the People | 8. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay (under the collective pseudonym Publius) |
| 3. A change or an addition to the Constitution | 9. Citizens 18 and older can vote; you don't have to pay to vote; any citizen can vote, a male citizen of any race can vote |
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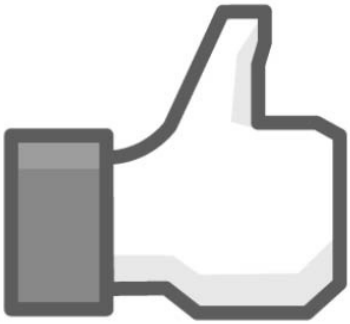
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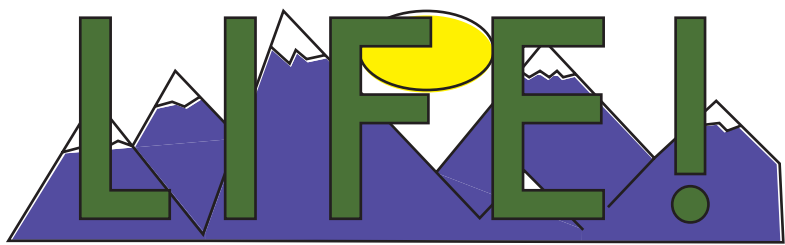
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A walk in the woods

Marshall University students combine research and leisure on the Appalachian Trail



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Rachel Sparkman, Kristi Fondren, Lindsay Heinemann and Meghan Arnold
gather at a trail head in Damascus, Virginia, the site of Trail Days. Trail Days features a variety of activities for those interested in the Trail, including parades, talent shows and free nightly outdoor concerts.

By WILL IZZO
LIFE EDITOR

Students looking to scratch a particular itch can get outside this summer and experience the Appalachian Trail through a class called Field Experience in Applied Sociology taught by Dr. Kristi Fondren.

Students can earn college credit researching the subculture associated with hikers of all different kinds while spending time on the premiere long-distance hiking trail in the United States. Fondren said the class grew from a series of questions she had regarding subcultures and what she calls the “subculture of place.” Fondren started teaching the class in 2011.

“I guess I first took three graduate students, one in history and two in sociology, and one just wanted me to do it, so we did this as an independent study and I thought this was a good opportunity to see how it might work out — one made it out of the three,” Fondren said. “They thought they could do it, but you get out there and you’re dirty and hot and sweaty, I mean, it’s work — you just have to be comfortable being uncomfortable.”

Fondren said she has been learning a lot since the initial venture into the 2,200-mile trail. She takes feedback from students to better adapt the course as the years progress. Although Fondren changes bits and pieces of the plan, the class always centers on one event called Trail Days in Damascus, Virginia. The 31st annual Trail Days is May 19, 20 and 21 this summer.

“So, normally the class has only been taught in that May intercession, now I’m able to teach it the first summer term

that goes two months, so now we have more time to do stuff during the semester,” Fondren said. “Typically what I’ve done because of the length of the class is for those who want to hike, and it’s encouraged, but it’s not required — because I think you just get a feel for what hikers go through if you do it even for two or three days — but usually we would drive over that Monday and start hiking around noon. We hike south into Trail Days. That first day is about five or so miles give or take. The next three days, cause it’s about 31 miles or so into Trail Days, we hike about eight to ten miles a day and we usually make it shelter to shelter. We hike into Damascus Thursday. That’s important to me so that we can get a good spot before people crowd in Friday — and there’s still stuff going on Thursday — Friday is just a day to do whatever there. Saturday is the day they have a Hiker Parade and a Hiker Talent Show. There’s all these gear people set up, musicians, there’s plenty of things to do — and then, the class would be over in the past cause we only have that month of May to do it anyways. Often, I stay out on the trail and keep hiking. If anybody wants to they can.”

Fondren said the best way to really learn about the subculture of the Appalachian Trail is to really be immersed in the experience, hiking with hikers and speaking to peers along the way. Fondren said the trail’s subculture is specifically unlike other subcultures she had researched in the past.

“There’s plenty of leisure subcultures and, in what I was able to research, it was the activity that brought people

together and not necessarily the place,” Fondren said. “So windsurfing was a big one that came up in the beginning. There was a huge windsurfing subculture, but there wasn’t this one body of water that seemed to unite people that they all would come to and it seemed like the trail was that though for hikers, and the Appalachian Trail more specifically. As far as research questions, that’s what I want to figure out. So, is it a marriage of place and activity or is it just a more general long distance hiking subculture and place doesn’t matter as much? I’m trying to figure that out.”

Fondren said the hiking subculture is one of the strongest ones she’s researched and even if hikers don’t particularly think they have a trail identity, those perceptions are still very much there.

“Hikers develop a hiker identity that’s created or constructed by them in their community, but also by outsiders in terms of how they react to hikers — so that reinforces a hiker identity even if you didn’t think you had one when outsiders treat you differently when you come into town to resupply and you’re stinky, and smelly — the way they respond helps to construct that identity,” Fondren said. “I would say hikers no matter the trail share that — you know, the unkempt appearance, the life of poverty, you’ve given up everything to hike, you’re determined, you persevere despite the weather and blisters — so they are kind of a different breed of character.”

Read the full story online at marshallparthenon.com

page designed and edited by WILL IZZO | izzo@marshall.edu

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